

**English Language GCSE equivalency test - sample**

**Time allowed: 2 hours**

**Paper C – *Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?***

**Materials**

For this paper you must have:

• Source A – provided as a separate insert.

**Instructions**

• Answer all questions.

• Please write your answers on the lined paper provided. Put your full name at the top of each piece of paper you write on.

• For Section A, you must refer to the separate insert provided.

• You must not use a dictionary in this test.

**Information**

• The marks for questions are shown in brackets.

• The maximum mark for this paper is 50.

• There are 25 marks for Section A and 25 marks for Section B.

• You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

• You will be assessed on the quality of your reading in Section A.

• You will be assessed on the quality of your writing in Section B.

**Advice**

• You are advised to spend about 1 hour on each section

• You are advised to plan your answer to the section B task before you start to write.

• You should spend the same amount of time on each of the two sections and leave sufficient time to check your answers.

**PTO**

**Section A: Reading (25 marks)**

Section A is based on the extract from Jeanette Winterson’s *Why Be happy When You Could Be Normal?* You should read the passage carefully and then answer questions 1 and 2 before the time of your interview. You will not see questions 3-6 or the writing tasks until the Collaborate interview takes place. Questions 3-6 will be emailed to you at the start of your interview and the choice of writing tasks will be emailed to you 5 minutes before the invigilated writing task.

The figures in brackets are the marks awarded for each answer.

**Question 1.** Read again the first half of the extract lines 1 – 13.

**Choose 4 statements which are true.**

Tick the 4 statements that you think are true. Choose a maximum of four statements.

1. Two pints of milk were delivered to the Winterson family each night.
2. Jeanette’s school was about a mile from home.
3. They went to church every day.
4. On a Thursday there were two church services.
5. Jeanette’s mother was furious with the draft of her novel and demanded that she did not publish.
6. Jeanette was in her late twenties when she wrote her novel *Oranges.*
7. Neither Jeanette nor her mother had their own phones at the time of publication.
8. Jeanette’s mother lived in the Accrington area. (4)

**Question 2.** In line 1 the writer compares herself to ‘a bare knuckle fighter’. She wasn’t an actual fighter so what does she mean by this phrase? (2)

**Question 3.** Re-read lines 4 and 5. She says “We always walked. We had no car and no bus money.”

Which of the following phrases comes closest to describing her tone here? (Write A, B or C on your answer sheet). (2)

A. Matter of fact

B. Sentimental

C. Heartbroken

**Question 4.** In lines 17-19 the writer says about her mother “She was out of scale, larger than life. She was like a fairy story where size is approximate and unstable. She loomed up. She expanded. Only later, much later, too late, did I understand how small she was to herself.” Explain what description reveals about Mrs Winterson. (3)

**Question 5.** The writer uses some interesting structural features, including sentences lengths and punctuation. Select 2 examples and write briefly about their impact on the reader. (4)

**Question 6.** In your own words, how would you describe the relationship between Jeanette and her Mother? How do you know? Refer to evidence from across the whole passage. (5)

**Question 7.** Jeanette’s mother disapproves of being an author as a career choice. Summarise Mrs Winterson’s views in your own words. How do you know? Refer to evidence from across the whole passage. (5)

**Section B:**  **Writing (25 marks)**

***Please remember that this section does NOT relate to the printed passage***

* You are advised to spend about 1 hour on this section. This will be invigilated online.
* Write in full sentences.
* You are reminded of the need to plan your answer.
* You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

**Question 7.** Write a single piece on **one** of the following. This is a piece of your own writing and is likely to be of two or three sides of answer paper.

**7a. A Career**

Explain where you are in terms of your career and how you arrived at this point. Explain the decisions that you’ve made and how and why you made them. Talk also about your hopes and aspirations for the future.

***OR***

**7b**.  **My first day**

You can interpret this title in any way, telling (for example) a true or fictional story.

***OR***

**7c.** **Career education**

Choose one or two changes which you would suggest to improve support for young people and/or adults choosing a career or seeking to change career. These could be changes concerning advice, support, experience or something else. Explain the changes you would recommend, and persuade the reader of their value. Marks will be given for the persuasiveness of your arguments.

**THE END**